GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2180
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
VACANT SEATS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy laid down for filling up the reserved seats in educational institutes under the administrative control of the Ministry, in case of non-availability of candidates in the required category;

(b) whether there were not adequate number of qualified candidates to fill up reserved seats on offer for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Physically Challenged and about 50% of the seats remained vacant in various educational institutions including Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether some of such vacant seats were transferred to general category; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): The policy of reservation is as per the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. Section 3 of the Act provides 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), 7.5 % for Scheduled Tribes(STs) and 27 % of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) exempting those CEIs which qualify under Section 4 of the Act thereof. In the matter of IA No 3 of 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No 35 of 2007 , the Supreme Court directed on 14.10.2008 that the maximum cut off marks for OBC should be 10% below the cut off marks of general category candidates and the vacant seats may be filled up by other eligible students. In accordance with the order of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued directions vide OM No. 1-1/2008-(III)U.I(A) dated 17th October, 2008 to all Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) to ensure that seats reserved for OBCs are filled by other eligible students only if they are vacant after admitting all eligible OBC students excluding the 'creamy layer' and the maximum cut-off marks for OBCs is to be kept 10% below the cut off marks for general category candidates. In order to prevent seats remaining unfilled without compromising on merit, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) offer preparatory courses to candidates belonging to the SCs/STs categories who are found deficient in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted each year.These candidates are accomodated in the succeeding academic session. This method followed by the IITs since 1984-85 has helped in nearly all seats meant for SCs and STs to be filled fully.